



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates for public office but does encourage its members as individuals to participate actively in the political process. The League acts on those issues the membership chooses for study and action

The LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region covers the Ulster County area and the Dutchess County area. We belong to the LWV of New York State and the LWV of the US.

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Commentator

June 2009

CALENDAR		
2009		
JULY		
8	1:30-3:00	Book Repair – Call Elizabeth Askue 338-1667
AUGUST		
4	7:15-9:15	Board meeting at Jacki Moriarty's, 167 Apple Hill Dr., Hurley
12	1:30-3:00	Book Repair – Call Elizabeth Askue 338-1667
14	10:30-12:00	Observer Corps at Monkey Joe's, 478 Broadway, Kingston
29-30	9:00-3:00	Yard Sale at Emilie Hauser's 63 Highland Ave., Kingston
SEPTEMBER		
22	6:00-8:30	Salad Supper & Membership Meeting at the Town of Esopus Library, 128 Canal St., Port Ewen

OUR NEXT COMMENTATOR WILL BE PUBLISHED IN MID AUGUST

Check our Calendar on-line at
<http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/calendar.html>
for updated information

Commentator archives, State and National League newsletters are
at <http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/Newsletters.html>

MEMBERS: Need a ride? Want to car-pool?
Contact Jean McGarry, 336-6622 or jfmcg@hvc.rr.com

Interested in one of our committees? Just show up at a meeting.
Our members are always welcome.



Prez Sez...

Greetings,

I like June because we are able to reflect on all we accomplished in our league in the past fiscal year. At the same time, it is exciting to rise to new challenges as we plan another year of informative programs, panel discussions, and opportunities for members to meet public officials. It is also a time to recommit to this great organization. Did you miss the annual meeting? Check out the annual report posted on our website. Please also take the time to check out the activity sign up sheet. How you are able to contribute to our league is varied and flexible, according to your interests and schedule. A quick e-mail or phone call to me is all it takes to get involved.

Our June Honoree luncheon was a huge success. Congratulations again to Cindy Bell, Lee Cane, Tom Kadgen and Renee Sachs. Just to give you the heads up, next June we will celebrate our league's 50th anniversary. Congratulations, also, to league member and Secretary Emilie Hauser who will serve as the league's representative on the Ulster County Legislature's Green Task Force Committee. And finally, thank you to Frank Cassetta, Karen Goertzel, and Evelyn Ness who agreed to be on the board this year.

The Mid- Hudson League has thrived while so many other leagues have faltered. But we cannot be complacent. Two very important goals for our league in this coming year are to increase member involvement as well as to increase membership. Please help your league reach these goals so that it can continue to do its good work.

Jean

**OBSERVER
CORPS REPORTS**

Did you know that many government public meetings are on the internet with live streaming video coverage? The Ulster County Legislature has been "webcast" live for a few months. Go to www.totalwebcasting.com/live/ulster on meeting nights for live video and at any other time for archived footage.

Check out www.nysegov.com/webcast.cfm for webcasts of New York State meetings and www.statewidemediaproject.org for other local meetings.

And did you know that the recent legislation, agendas and minutes of the legislatures and committees in Ulster and Dutchess County can be found at <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/countygov/departments/legislature/clindex.htm> (Dutchess) and <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/legislature.html> (Ulster).

Our Elections Page has links to Dutchess and Ulster County towns and villages websites at http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/elections.html#Local_Gov_Sites. More and more communities are posting valuable legislative information online to keep us informed.

**Ulster County
Legislature Meeting**

June 10, 2009, 7PM 28 present, 5 absent

Public Hearing - Agricultural District Inclusions was held prior to the legislature's regular meeting. The inclusion of Rivendale Winery near New Paltz generated substantial comment – primarily in opposition. Opponents cited ongoing land-use litigation between the town and property owners, traffic issues, visual light and noise pollution and an essentially commercial retail operation. Proponents contended that, unlike the surrounding 85 acres designated Agricultural, 4 acre property is actively being farmed having been planted with 600 grape vines and that the former retail operation under the name of Rivendale Winery is no longer in business.

After the close of the public hearing the Chairman called the meeting of the legislature to order.

Meeting - Chairman Donaldson commended the Winter Watch task force, consisting of numerous county officials, and in particular DSS Commissioner Rodriguez, for the efforts to resolve the risks to the community and its most vulnerable members arising from the explosion in energy costs last year. He thereafter presented Commissioner Rodriguez with National Association of Counties award for innovation & effectiveness of the Winter Watch program. A press release on the topic can be found at http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/legislative_press/061020091.pdf

Two members of the public spoke during the Public Comment segment in favor of "Lynette's Law" (criminalizing throwing, tossing or expelling of bodily fluids In Ulster County) and expressed thanks to those responsible for bringing about enactment of

the law. Local Law No 2 of 2009 was unanimously adopted by Resolution 197.

While the bulk of the agenda items were approved with little discussion, a few resolutions sparked lively debate.

Proposed resolution 192 establishing \$125,000.00 – \$175,000.00 as the salary range for the Public Health Director (required to be a physician under the Charter) was offered. Legislator Dart moved and Legislator Provenzano seconded to amend the resolution to a cap of \$150,000.00. The amendment was defeated and the resolution (as originally proposed) was thereafter defeated.

Proposed resolution 193 creating the title of deputy probation director II, and establishing a salary range for the title of \$70,000.00 to \$75,000.00. Again Legislator Dart moved and Legislator Provenzano seconded to amend the resolution to a cap of \$72,500.00. The amendment was defeated and the resolution (as originally proposed) was thereafter defeated.

Both defeated resolutions generated comments from the majority party questioning the motives of the minority and wondering what purpose is served by minority legislators voting in favor of the resolutions in committee but then opposing them at the general meeting.

After having held a public hearing on June 2nd, the legislature adopted Resolution 200 which approved a local law amending to the County Charter and Administrative Code to add one community member, appointed by the County Executive, and the Chairman of the County Legislator to the Intermunicipal Collaboration Council.

Resolution 204, ostensibly to engage the NYS Department of Corrections to conduct an investigation of the UC Law Enforcement Center regarding allegations of sexual harassment allegations and the timeliness and procedures by which the legislature was informed of pertinent information, came before the Legislature near the end of the meeting. Apparently two versions of the resolution existed, one of which was to be ruled out of order. Legislator Maloney moved, seconded by Legislator Ronk to refer the “surviving” version back to the Criminal Justice and Safety Committee. Thereafter, a nearly 45 minute maelstrom ensued threatening to suck the entire Legislature into the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench but for the steady hand of Chairman Donaldson and a few temperate legislators.

All our attempts to summarize the exchanges among legislators regarding Resolution 204 have failed miserably. You just had to be there. Fortunately, you still can! Log on to the webcast of the meeting at <http://www.totalwebcasting.com/view/?id=ulster#> and, after the video has started, click to Resolution 204 in the menu on the left. For a glimmer of an understanding of the various events the legislators refer to, you may want to look at some on-line items listed below:

[Another scandal at the Ulster jail](http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090515/OPINION/905150337/-1/OPINION02), Times Herald Record, May 15, 2009
www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090515/OPINION/905150337/-1/OPINION02

[Female officers at jail allege sex harassment](http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2009/05/15/news/doc4a0cddadde8ce984994596.txt), Daily Freeman, May 15, 2009
www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2009/05/15/news/doc4a0cddadde8ce984994596.txt

[Meeting sought over Ulster harassment suit](http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090520/NEWS/905200366), Times Herald Record, May 20, 2009
www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090520/NEWS/905200366

[Officials in Ulster fail again to get it](http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090521/OPINION/905210315/-1/OPINION02), Times Herald Record, May 21, 2009
www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090521/OPINION/905210315/-1/OPINION02

[Ulster lawmakers vote for investigation committee, then reconsider](http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090603/NEWS/90603051), Times Herald Record, June 3, 2009
www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090603/NEWS/90603051

[Ulster Dem says jail panel's investigation 'purely political'](http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090604/NEWS/906040336), Times Herald Record, June 4, 2009
www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090604/NEWS/906040336

[County Attorney's Office didn't forward findings in jail probe](http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2009/06/04/news/doc4a2750a17f37c908702840.txt), Daily Freeman, June 4, 2009
www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2009/06/04/news/doc4a2750a17f37c908702840.txt

[Ulster legislators squabble over who knew what, when, and how to figure that out](http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2009/June09/11/UCL_info-11Jun09.html), Mid-Hudson News Network, June 11, 2009
www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2009/June09/11/UCL_info-11Jun09.html

**Ulster County
Economic
Development,
Housing, Planning &
Transit Committee**

The legislative session concluded with approving a home-rule request to the state legislature for a continuation of the 1% additional sales tax. Considering the status of the state Senate, one wonders what action can be taken by the state on this request and if inaction will result in a reduction of the local sales tax.

Jean and Jim McGarry

Date: 5/26/09 Start Time: 6:02 p.m. Finish Time: 7:40 p.m.

Chairman Hector Rodriguez introduced Nancy Schaefer, Director of Employment and Training: She discussed a draft resolution about the Summer Youth Employment program for funding youth. A resolution to be brought forward for the June 10, 2009, county legislature about \$500,000 Fed stimulus funds to the county for the summer and \$325,000 for SUNY Ulster to assist Employment and Training.

Chairman Rodriguez introduced Michael Berardi, member of the Railroad Advisory Board (RAB), to discuss the status and plans and activities of RAB and related activities with the Catskill Mountain Railway, trails, rail-and-trails and rails-to-trails activities and funding. There was a long and sometimes flustered discussion of the complicated situation that will not be reported here as formal minutes of the meeting are expected to be a better basis of understanding the situation and the way forward.

Date: 6/24/09 Start Time: 6:11 p.m. Finish Time: 8:12 p.m.

Chairman Hector Rodriguez publicly acknowledged Cynthia Ruiz, Ulster County Director of Public Transportation, with a Pride of Ulster County Award pending her departure to Dutchess County after 22 years with the county. (See continuation below).

Three resolutions were addressed:

- Adopting the inclusion (and removal of a property) of additional lands in agricultural districts within Ulster County as recommended by the Ulster County Farmland Protection Board. Lydia Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Co-op discussed the resolution with members of the UCFPB and land owners present.
- Appointing an alternative member to the Ulster County Planning Board – Town of Hurley – Karl Brueckner.
- Supporting the grant application to the Hudson River Valley Greenway to initiate the development of a Greenway Pact for Ulster County. \$49,000 has been awarded. This is toward a compact status from a community status. Every community but the Town of Denning is on board. The compact advantages are toward a “bottoms up” consensus by the communities. Communities are not bound by the compact.

The meeting's discussion returned to transportation with Cynthia Ruiz announcing the Art Show opening on Friday, June 26, at UCAT and describing the use of Fed stimulus funding for more energy efficient vehicles and buildings. She received several compliments for her work in Ulster County. Dennis Doyle, Director of the Ulster County Planning, asked her about challenges she sees for the county transportation which lead to a discussion about topics including: a controllers report concerning data and regulations, monitoring runs and schedules effectiveness, a scheduling program, and the intermodal center. She received several compliments for her work in Ulster County.

Lydia Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Co-op, gave an extended report with discussion with the committee and Dennis Doyle, on Cornell projects, programs, grants and contracts and contract management. There are outstanding concerns which this committee takes seriously to be discussed with the County Executive and County Controller.

Dennis Doyle discussed a variety of planning programs and activities related to the Economic Development Update, transportation, tourism, trails, broadband, housing, a Main Street Project, the Smart Growth Initiative, Energy Block Grant (the Energy Policy of the UC Department for the Environment is considered very helpful), public information campaigns and the status of some the Fed stimulus funded bridge projects.

Vic Melville

Ulster County Environmental Committee

Date: 6/17/09 Start Time: About 6:15 p.m. Finish Time: 6:45 p.m.

Chairman Brian Shapiro declared this a public airing meeting as a quorum was not present. He discussed a NYS Department of Environment Conservation report and he is to submit some concerns to the Ulster County Legislature.

Chairman Shapiro acknowledged Amanda LaValle, UC Environmental Coordinator, to report on a many on-going and planned projects and community/municipalities outreach activities. These include: the annual report on storm water (including all communities but Rosendale), new sewer shed requirements in mapping, a grant application for energy coordinated with Dutchess and Orange counties, a grant for Ulster Landing Park (Sojourner Truth) including a Boy Scout Eagle project. In the committee, there is a concern about the long term care of the park and trails.

Vic Melville

Ulster County Human Services Committee

The Legislative Human Services and Personnel Committee was convened by Chairman Gregorius on June 2, 2009 at 4:15 and adjourned at 4:47. Members were present except for Legislators Hansut and Terrizzi.

The initial resolution concerned an agreement with the State Human Rights Commission. UC Human Rights Commissioner Arlene Reynolds explained the various aspects of the memorandum of agreement, i.e., it is for a year, it codifies relationship with the State Commission, provides protection for everyone who lives in UC, whether a county employee or not; the need to file a complaint was explained as well. Chairman Gregorius noted that the county has a procedure in place regarding how a harassment problem is to be handled. He suggested if any member did not understand the county procedure it could be reviewed at another committee meeting. Resolution passed.

The next resolution dealt with the Coordinated Children's School Program. DCE Beckman provided the following information: it is a program handled through Ulster BOCES, provides positive re-enforcement for children to attend school, i.e., tutoring, music lessons, trips, etc. Cost is divided among the federal, state and county budgets. UC's share would be \$2,925. Resolution passed.

The final resolution involved accepting \$84,000 from NYS for the OFA/DSS Point of Entry Program which helps to direct people where to find help in UC. Resolution passed.

Prior to adjournment Legislator Loughran raised a concern: in 2008 he had requested more than once that DSS provide a report to the Human Services Committee at that time on how DSS was being used, i.e., what programs are used, not used, who uses the programs, which ones are doing well, etc. Such report was not provided. He has wanted this report in order to enable UC to be better able to discuss UC needs with the state and to assist in avoiding increased costs for the county if possible.

There was considerable discussion which followed with various suggestions made as to the best way to handle this matter at this time due to the advent of a Charter form of government. Legislator Provenzano advised that at the recent Administrative Services Committee meeting it was noted that the Comptroller was in the process of performing an audit of DSS that would include evaluating many of the areas that Legislator Loughran was referring to. She suggested a written request be made to the County Executive.

Legislator Loughran will have a request to be sent to the County Executive for review at the next committee meeting.

An additional concern was raised by Legislator Noonan regarding the "gag order policy". Chairman Gregorius said it would be place on the agenda for the next meeting.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Ulster County Legislative Administrative Services Committee

The Legislative Administrative Services Committee was convened by Chairman Provenzano at 5:04, June 16, 2009 and adjourned at 5:35. Members present except for Legislators Hansut and Lomita. UC Comptroller Auerbach was also present.

Following approval of the May 19 meeting minutes the time was spent touching on several topics, discussing a few at length.

Letter had been received from purchasing sent to all departments dated June 1.

Primarily to obtain information on how many vehicles each of the departments presently has and may need.

Comptroller Auerbach sent a copy of Erie County whistle blower law to Chairman Provenzano. He advised the committee that the purpose of such a law is to protect people whether employees or not. Chairman Provenzano indicated she will speak with other Legislative committee chairmen to determine which one would be most appropriate to handle this topic and contact NYSAC for best practices in this matter.

The remainder of the meeting involved a report by Comptroller Auerbach re what some of the projects his staff is engaged in: 3 audits: bed tax, cell phone usage, DSS; certifies big payrolls every 2 weeks and smaller ones, once a week. Certification takes the form of examining the payroll for consistency, i.e., employee receives a specific salary and then any changes, i.e. possible spike may indicate over time; reviews all contracts and each aspect of work that is covered by the contract; when bill for payment is submitted his staff reviews the contract to be sure that such payments are covered by the contract.

Question was raised regarding the county computer system. Apparently it is old. A RFP was put out by purchasing some 9 months ago. Comptroller Auerbach indicated that it will be necessary to review and determine whether the suggested system has been improved on. It is questionable whether county has the money to pay for the upgrade; he is not sure whether stimulus dollars can be used to cover the cost which could be as much as half a million dollars. The problems associated with the topic: once adopted it will take 12-18 months to implement throughout the county system; can't afford not to upgrade the county system.

Chairman Provenzano indicated she will talk to Information Services and arrange for a representative from that department to be present at the next meeting.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Ulster County Legislative Ways and Means Committee

The Legislative Ways and Means Committee was convened at 4:50 on June 2, 2009 by Deputy Chairman Gerentine and adjourned at 6:05. All members present except Legislator Lomita.

There were 27 resolutions to be dealt with. While the resolutions were passed, there were some which created considerable discussion and one which was tabled.

#166 dealt with approval of contracts, some of which involved using Federal stimulus dollars. During discussion Comptroller Auerbach advised that all contracts will be reviewed prior to signing in the future; that he will audit results and be proactive in the future regarding such matters. It was also noted that the County Executive will provide a list of which contracts have or have not been accepted. Resolution passed.

#175 dealt with the cost associated with reviewing the county budget to be proposed by the County Executive. This involved the transfer of funds from regular pay line to contingent account. Legislator Provenzano requested that the process that is engaged in by the company hired to "tear apart" the proposed budget be made available to the Legislators prior to the resolution being presented. Resolution passed.

#192 dealt with the salary range for the Director of the UC Department of Health. Following discussion the committee passed the resolution establishing a salary range for the yet to be selected Director at \$125,000 to \$175,000.

#193 concerned creating the title of Deputy Probation Director II and establishing a salary range for the title. There was extensive discussion which resulted in the matter being tabled until the next meeting at which time Robert Sudlow, now a Deputy County Executive, and former Director of Probation will provide additional information for the committee.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Ulster County The Association of Town Supervisors

The monthly meeting of the UC Town Supervisors Association was called to order by John Valk, Supervisor T/Shawangunk on June 16, 2009 at 8:30 and adjourned at 9:50.

The agenda included a report from UC County Executive Michael Hein; the introduction of a discussion regarding the prosecution of speeding tickets by UC District Attorney Holley Carnright; a report on H1N1 (Swine flu) virus by Eleanor Troy

of the UC Health Department (UCHD); and a report by Jonathan Drapkin, Executive Director of Pattern for Progress on the study it is engaged in regarding shared municipal services in Ulster County.

Mr. Hein emphasized the importance of working with the towns; that his office is working on making Geographic Information Systems available to everyone either free or at a very low cost and updating the GIS beyond 2004. He referenced the change at the UCHD: Director Palen has left and that the county is working hard to obtain a replacement who, under the charter, must be a medical doctor and have public health experience. Mr. Hein indicated that he had asked Eleanor Troy of the UCHD to report on the status of H1N1 (Swine flu) virus in UC. A final comment dealt with developing best practices re Tourism. He has hired an outside consultant who has done a "spectacular job" on the promotional work, which the Motel Association and the Lodging Association have both supported.

DA Carrnight was interested in learning how the various agencies, municipalities and local justices are presently handling speeding tickets issued in their areas.

During discussion he pointed out that his office does not prosecute speeding tickets (and his staff would not be enlarged this year due to budgetary constraints). He approves the appointment of special prosecutors by the towns. These appointments have become necessary for that reason and because the NYS Police are no longer allowed to negotiate tickets. This procedure is particularly true along "the corridor" Route 209 where many tickets are given out and the Thruway.

Various comments were made by those present: background to the present situation; some have had no change in number of tickets issued or money collected; others had increased revenue because trials are more rapidly completed. It was suggested by one attendee that it would be helpful to see special prosecutor's authority extended to help deal with locally issued tickets in order to reduce amount of over-time paid to local police.

Eleanor Troy noted that she had spoken to the group about 3 years ago regarding the pandemic flu at that time. Today she reference H1N1 (swine flu) virus-a new virus appearing in April, 2009. It has now spread to over 70 countries and has been labeled pandemic by the WHO. Health officials don't know how sever it is as the disease has been mild generally even with the reported deaths. Nevertheless Ms. Troy urged everyone to take the possibility of future pandemics seriously.

She noted there were 1400 cases in NYS; health officials particularly concerned re people with asthma, heart disease, immune suppressed situations, diabetes.

Ms. Troy emphasized the importance of using hand sanitizer, washing hands and using paper towers. She noted that a vaccine is being worked on but it takes 6-8 months to produce. If a vaccine is developed and the disease mutates, the new vaccine may provide some protection.

Community needs to be prepared. It is recommended that households have 21 days of food/water in hand. She pointed out that the work force could just as easily be disrupted as those who are of school age which would create supply problems.

See county website for points on preparedness or call 340-4090; or state health department for numbers of cases on any given day: www.nyhealth.gov. Various posters, bulletins and handouts were left for the attendees.

Mr. Drapkin explained that his organization has been employed to perform a study on shared services and how this could be of help to the various municipalities in UC. He noted that the majoring of the towns and the city of Kingston has met with his group so far and noted that those who had not yet...about 5 to please do so. The study refers to sharing services, not consolidation. He noted the difference:

Shared services do not merge or consolidate or loose identity; whereas consolidation involved merging everything, the town loses its identity.

Some of the areas involved in the study: he and Gerry Benjamin are meeting with the town supervisors; highways are handled separately; court system might work in the retirement areas and economic development is being handled by Peter Fairweather.

The group plans 3-4 public hearings to enable the public to give input. By using county web site, public can also communicate with the study group by e-mail.

He expects to complete the study by November, 2009.

(Note: Observer left at this point to return just prior to adjournment)

City of Kingston Common Council

The June 6, 2009 Kingston City Council meeting was sparsely attended, but only one Alderman was excused. A quorum was in attendance and a great deal of "business" was on the Agenda.

Some big items that came up first:

- The Council voted to pass "Local Law #5" - "amending section A-6 of the Administrative code of the city of Kingston to allow the Common Council to assign voucher approval recommendation to the Board of Police Commissioners if the Council sees fit."
- The Council voted to pass "Local Law #6" - to allow the Common Council to assign voucher approval recommendation to the advisory boards for the Department of Public Works, the Fire Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation, if Council sees fit."
- The "First Reading of Local Law #7" - "amending Chapter 360 of the Code of the City of Kingston (Taxation) for real property owned by veterans who rendered military service to the United States during the 'cold war' was unanimously passed.

The Council approved the following resolutions:

- Traffic control changes included a stop sign at Browning Terrace/Miller Lane intersection, designation of a Fire Lane adjacent to the County Courthouse, on Third Ave, designation of a handicap parking zone and an amendment of no parking zones, designation of a no parking zone on Howland Ave. and a designation of No Turns on Red from Washington Ave to Grandma Brown Lane.
- Budget amendments included transfers regarding retirement incentives, amendment of Police Department revenues to reflect NYS Div Criminal Justice Services funds, transfers to the Assessor's budget from the contingency fund, and a Recreation Department budget transfer for repairs to Andretta Pool and modifications to the 2009 Celebrations budget in the amount of \$3,000.00 to reflect monies received from the sale of John Zaccheo paintings.
- Several parcels scheduled for tax foreclosure proceedings were withdrawn pursuant to installment payment plans having been accepted.
- The Common Council approved the Pedestrian Waterfront Walkway/Bulkhead Project along the Rondout Creek issuance of bonds not exceeding \$1,830,000.00 and accepted a consultant study on the "Uptown Stockade Area Transportation Plan" (Resolution #116)
- A number of inter-governmental agreements between the City and Ulster County, the Town of Poughkeepsie and the Town of Espous (sewage treatment) were also approved.

Notable comments made by members of the council included:

- Alderman Senor - although voting in favor of the resolution regarding retirement incentives (Resolution #97) - expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that one position had been eliminated, whilst another position had been added elsewhere.
- Speaking in connection with the resolution regarding Interlocal Agreement with the County of Ulster (Resolution #102), Alderman Landi commended Police Chief Keller and Deputy Chief Wallace for attending a number of Committee meetings and working with the Committee to reduce expenses. Alderman Landi would like to see other department heads encouraged to do the same.
- Alderman Landi expressed concern about the number of "installment payment plan" contracts being put forth and tentatively entered into appear to have increased notably and about the possibility that this trend might continue. A general concern about the economic situation was expressed by both Alderman Landi and Alderman Senor.
- Alderman Landi expressed concern about the lack of an "exit plan" in regard to an agreement with the Town of Esopus around sewage processing (Resolution #115.) The other Council members that spoke on the issue did not appear to share this concern.
- Alderman Hoffay said that Resolution #116 - having to do with the "study on the 'Uptown Stockade Area Transportation Plan'" - was pertinent to the study only. Public Information sessions will reputedly be held on this issue - and it is hoped that (if approved) a "Request for Funding" (i.e., grant monies?) would cover the implementation of the Plan. More information will reputedly be forthcoming on this

issue. At this stage, only an approval for accepting the "report" (using Alderman Landi's wording here) was voted upon / approved.

- Regarding the voucher issue (Local Laws #5 and #6 of 2009) - and the potential changes around it involves passed with no Alderman spoking against it. Alderman Hoffay expressed that all vouchers should go through the Council process and that the Council should act (without exception) as a "voucher review system. Alderman Reynolds referred to it as a "smart move" and a way to "tighten financial controls." Alderman Senor expressed approval and agreement (with Alderman Hoffay and Alderman Reynolds) on this issue. And, Alderman Teetsel, who also stood in approval stated that he was "looking forward to working on this." The process was expected to be start in early or mid-July 2009.

Nancy Smith

2009 YARD SALE

Sat. Aug 29 &
Sun. Aug 30
9 am to 3 pm
Emilie Hauser's
63 Highland Avenue
Kingston, NY

WANTED: GOOD SALABLE ITEMS FOR YARD SALE



- Appliances in good working order
- Jewelry
- Household décor
- Clean linens
- Books (children, crafts, cookbooks only)
- CDs: music or literature
- Sporting goods
- Tools
- Clean furniture
- Current collectibles
- Household goods
- Toys, puzzles and games
- Exercise equipment

PLEASE DO NOT BRING

- Outdated electronics: computers, monitors, televisions, radios
- Outdated electric appliances
- Clothing
- Books (except children's, crafts and cookbooks - *in good condition*)
- Any broken, chipped, non-functional, or outdated items.

LET'S MAXIMIZE THE SMALL SELLING SPACE WITH GOOD MERCHANDISE TO GET THE GREATEST DOLLAR VALUE.

Drop off Schedule:

- Sat 15-Aug 8 am to noon
- Mon 17-Aug 6 to 8 pm
- Tue 18-Aug 6 to 8 pm
- Thu 20-Aug 6 to 8 pm
- Mon 24-Aug 6 to 8 pm
- Tue 25-Aug 6 to 8 pm
- Wed 26-Aug 6 to 8 pm
- Thu 27-Aug 6 to 8 pm

To arrange other times for drop-off, call Emilie Hauser at 338-4820
For Pick-up of bulky items, call Jackie and John Moriarty 331-3418

Volunteers needed for pricing:

- Tue 25-Aug 9 to 11 am
- Wed 26-Aug 9 to 11 am
- Thu 27-Aug 9 to 11 am
- Fri 28-Aug 9 to 11 am

Helpers are needed:

- Friday evening, Aug 28 to set up.
- Saturday and Sunday to work at the sale and clean-up
- Week of August 30 to dispose of items.

Directions: Highland Ave. is two streets up East Chester Street from Broadway (where Burger King is). From E. Chester St, turn right (east) on Highland and go two blocks to dead end, # 63 – a log house with detached garage.

I/we wish to become members of the LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region through May 31, 2010

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (day) _____ (eve) _____

Email: _____

I/We enclose: Individual Membership (\$50) _____ Household Membership (\$75) _____

Additional gift to the LWV Education Fund (*tax deductible*;) for our use
(Please send a separate check which **MUST** be payable to NYSLWV Ed Fund) \$ _____

If you are upgrading to a Household Membership, please
include the name and email address of new members _____

Will receive *Commentator* _____ online &/or will read it on website or _____ Please mail *Commentator*

**(Complete the above form and return it to us with your check at
PO Box 3564, Kingston, New York 12402)**

League of Women Voters
Mid-Hudson Region
PO Box 3564
Kingston, NY, 12402

June 2009
Commentator